

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 FMC-01 DOTE-00 OES-06

FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15

SP-02 INT-05 /093 W

----- 073855

R 150500Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5066

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, SN, ID, MY

SUBJECT: MALACCA STRAITS: TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME AND
POLLUTION PREVENTION

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 1340

(B) SINGAPORE 818

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ARTICLE IN STRAITS TIMES OF APRIL 15
INDICATES THAT INDONESIA MAY SOON BE PRESSING SINGAPORE AND
MALAYSIA FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT ON REGIMES TO SEPARATE TRAFFIC
AND PREVENT OIL POLLUTION IN MALACCA STRAITS. PRESS REPORT,
BASED ON APRIL 14 STATEMENT BY SPOKESMAN OF INDONESIAN EMBASSY
HERE, STATED THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAD ORDERED INDONESIAN
COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TO FORMULATE NEW PROPOSALS DESIGNED
TO PREVENT OIL POLLUTION IN MALACCA STRAITS RESULTING
FROM MISHAPS INVOLVING SUPER TANKERS. CATALYST FOR THIS
INDONESIAN ACTION APPARENTLY WAS GROUNDING LAST WEEK OF SHELL
213,000 DWT SUPER TANKER "MYSELLA" WHICH STRUCK UNCHARTED REEF
SOUTH OF ST. JOHN'S ISLAND CAUSING FAIRLY EXTENSIVE OIL POLLUTION
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IN SINGAPORE AND INDONESIAN WATERS. ACCORDING TO UNSPECIFIED

SOURCE CITED BY PRESS REPORT, JAKARTA TEAM EXPECTED IN SINGAPORE IN NEAR FUTURE TO EXPLAIN INDONESIAN PROPOSALS TO APPROPRIATE GOS OFFICIALS.

2. IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO STRAITS' TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME, STRAITS TIMES ATTRIBUTES TO AN UNSPECIFIED JAKARTA SOURCE AN ALLEGED SUHARTO ORDER THAT GOI RESUME TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS ON PASSAGE OF OIL TANKERS THROUGH MALACCA STRAITS. IN THIS CONNECTION, INDONESIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL HERE WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT INDONESIAN COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER SALIM POINTED OUT AFTER "MYSELLA" INCIDENT, THAT GOI PROPOSALS CALLED FOR LIMITING PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS TO TANKERS HAVING MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 200,000 DWT.

END UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN L.O.U. COMMENT: NEW PROPOSALS ON POLLUTION REFERRED TO IN LOCAL PRESS REPORT MAY BE IDENTICAL TO MUCH RUMORED INDONESIAN MARINE POLLUTION LAW (REF. A). SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO UPPER LIMIT OF 200,000 DWT AS INDONESIAN POSITION ON TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME MAY MERELY BE REITERATION OF PREVIOUS GOI STANCE. ALTERNATIVELY, IT COULD REFLECT HARDENING OF INDONESIAN VIEWS OR BE NEGOTIATING GAMBIT DESIGNED TO PRESSURE SINGAPORE INTO ACCEPTING FOUR METER UNDER KEEL CLEARANCE LIMIT WHICH INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA HAD BEEN HOLDING OUT FOR IN NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR. END L.O. U.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 APR 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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